CORRIGENDUM

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Please note that :

i. there is a printing error in this issue : a page (overleaf) is missing between pages 9 and 10 and should be inserted therein.

ii. Page 13 duplicates page 12.

investment and competition policies and labour standards. A second category includes issues which reflect concern over the lack of coherence among global policy objectives. A third category consists of issues which affect the ability of countries,especially the least developed countries and other weak economies, to pursue national goals effectively.

COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

The United Nations' central body on science and technology-the Commission on Science and Technology for Development - met in Geneva from 15 to 24 May 1995. Over 50 countries participated in the meeting. The Commission, a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), now meets in Geneva as a result of the designation of UNCTAD as the United Nations' focal point for science and technology-related activities. The Commission serves as a global forum in which to examine issues of science and technology policy, particularly areas which are relevant to capacity-building in the developing world. Topics considered by the Commission at its second session included: how science and technology (S&T) can be used to help meet basic needs of low-income populations, how women's access to S&T might be improved, and how S&T could bring about sustainable land-management practices. Some of the specific actions suggested include: the identification and promotion of replicable demonstration activities for integrating basic needs into science and technology policies; the establishment of a mechanism to monitor and evaluate progress with regard to the strengthening of the role of women in science and technology; and the elaboration of guidelines for the application of technologies that increase the utilization of integrated land-management systems. The Commission decided to focus its work programme for the next two years on recent developments in information technologies and their implications for economic growth, social cohesion, cultural values and society as a whole. ECOSOC has invited the Commission to liaise with UNCTAD in establishing a programme for country reviews on science, technology and innovation policies. The Commission has identified specific aspects of information technologies for consideration, among them: the policy, institutional, legal and infrastructural requirements for the development, transfer and application of information technologies; specific applications such as sustainable use of natural resources, small-scale economic activities addressing basic needs in education, health and food production; and the effects of information technologies on employment economic growth and human resources development.

MEETING OF DONORS, FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INSTITUTIONS WITH LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Representatives of least developed countries and donors met in UNCTAD from 29 May to 2 June 1995. They prepared a text which will serve as the main working document for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries in the 1990s. The text assesses progress in the implementation of the Programme and of recommendations aimed at intensifying policy commitments by both Governments of the least developed countries (LDCs) and the international community to deal with the socio-economic situation in LDCs. Despite strong efforts, the LDCs as a group have not been able to meet many of the Programme's objectives. Recommendations include avoiding excessive public sector deficits, diversifying export structure and enhancing supply capacities, creating an appropriate framework for dynamic private enterprise development, and enhancing human resources development. The recommendations also propose several possible elements for a comprehensive strategy for the reduction of LDC's debt.

COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPING SERVICES SECTORS: SHIPPING

The UNCTAD Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors (Shipping) held its third session from 6 to 9 June 1995 to examine progress on policy reforms for enhancing competitive services in the fields of shipping, ports and multimodal transport in developing countries and countries in transition. Donor and recipient countries praised the high quality of UNCTAD's technical assistance and training programmes aimed at improving the efficiency of shipping, port and multimodal transport services in developing countries. In particular, support was pledged by major donors for the TRAINMAR programme, through which UNCTAD enhances the management capacities of developing countries in the field of shipping, ports and multimodal transport. The role of UNCTAD in the development of the advanced cargo information system (ACIS) was likewise praised. As this was the last session of the Committee before UNCTAD IX, the Committee reviewed the work carried out since 1992. It established a set of complementary activities to be